

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /068 W

----- 021636

R 050940Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7585

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

FAA BRUSSELS BELGIUM

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BEIRUT FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: ETRD, PK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PIA HELICOPTER SERVICE SURVEY

REF: A. KARACHI 1273 B. LAHORE 1257 (NOTAL)

1. IN REFTEL A CONGEN REPORTED PIA ATTITUDES AS OF JULY TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT HELICOPTER SERVICE. AT THAT TIME PROSPECTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUCH SERVICE DID NOT APPEAR BRIGHT.

2. DURING TALK OCT. 4 WITH PIA PLANNING DIRECTOR AFSAR HUSSAIN, DPO LEARNED FEASIBILITY STUDY ON PIA EXPANSION INTO HELICOPTER SERVICE NOW BEING CARRIED OUT. STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED FOR PUNJAB AND FRONTIER AND TEAM NOW WORKING ON BALUCHISTAN. STUDY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER AND FURTHER ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDIES FINISHED BY JANUARY 1974. AS DESCRIBED BRIEFLY BY HUSSAIN SUCH SERVICE, IF APPROVED, WOULD PROVIDE AIR CONNECTIONS BETWEEN POINTS WHERE ROAD TRAVEL DIFFICULT AND, PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT, BETWEEN CLOSELY SPACED POPULATION CENTERS SUCH AS LAHORE

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AND SIALKOT. HUSSAIN CLAIMED GOP INTERESTED IN AT LEAST

SMALL HELICOPTER PROGRAM AND FREELY ADMITTED ANY HELICOPTER SERVICE IN PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE TO BE HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED BY GOP SINCE COULD NOT BE SELF SUSTAINING WITH PROJECTED TRAFFIC AND FARE STRUCTURE. ASKED WHAT REAL CHANCES EXISTED FOR PIA EXPANSION INTO HELICOPTER SERVICE, HUSSAIN SAID PIA MIGHT WELL START OFF WITH SMALL PROGRAM LIMITED TO ONE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF COUNTRY.

3. WHILE HELICOPTER FEASIBILITY STUDY BEING CARRIED OUT, FLIGHT OPERATIONS DIVISION OF PIA HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALL HELICOPTER MANUFACTURERS TO ACQUIRE PERFORMANCE AND OTHER DATA. ACQUISITION ANY HELICOPTERS NOT LIKELY TAKE PLACE BEFORE MARCH OR APRIL OF 1974. CONGEN WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH PIA CONCERNING PROGRESS HELICOPTER FEASIBILITY STUDY.
TIGER

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Message Attributes

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